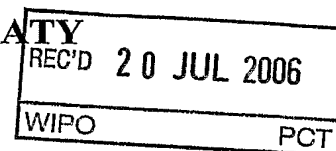


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EG 2005/000007	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 26 February 2005 (26.02.2005)	Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 6 March 2004 (06.03.2004)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC⁸: G09F 19/18 (2006.01); G03B 37/04 (2006.01)		
Applicant CENTER FOR DOCUMENTATION OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE, CULTNAT		
1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examination Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>6</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of <u>9</u> sheets.		
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> I. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion II. <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application </div>		
Date of submission of the demand 11 November 2005 (11.11.2005)	Date of completion of this report 28 June 2006 (28.06.2006)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AT Austrian Patent Office Dresdner Straße 87 A-1200 Vienna Facsimile No. 1/53424/200	Authorized officer WENNINGER W. Telephone No. 1/53424/325	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EG 2005/000007

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages 2-4, 7, filed with the letter of 11 November 2005 (11.11.2005).
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages 5, 6, filed with the letter of 11 November 2005 (11.11.2005).
- ☒ the drawings:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages 8-10, filed with the letter of 11 November 2005 (11.11.2005).
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____.
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____.

5. ☒ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as „originally filed“ and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement	Novelty (N)	Claims 1-11	YES
		Claims ----	NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-11	YES
		Claims ----	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-11	YES
		Claims ----	NO

Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents have been cited in the search report:

D1 US 6 669 346 B2 (METCALF)

D2 US 6 665 985 B1 (HENNES)

The results of the examination report are as follows:

In the response to the first written opinion dated 11 November 2005 the applicant has submitted arguments against the first written opinion prepared by the APO and has submitted amendments that have been made under Article 34 of the PCT.

D1 discloses a system for the imaging and exhibition of visual-media content, comprising substantially cylindrical, arced, or dome-shaped, screen-displays that are each configured for display of panoramic imagery and, preferably, configured for networked interactivity, or for the viewing and/or participant interaction with multimedia content featuring a circularity of action (column 1, lines 25-32), said screen-displays being capable of exhibiting pre-recorded, computer-generated, and image-processed image content, and also live, multi-channel, or multiplexed, panoramic content (column 1, lines 38-45), said system being scalable and readily transportable for arenas, stadiums and other large audience venues, including venues in indoor or outdoor settings (column 1, lines 45-50), wherein the viewers can readily view, and/or interact with, said system, and experience panoramic exhibitions that are substantially contiguous and circumnavigably viewable (column 4, lines 28-34), said screen-displays configured for the exhibition of panoramic imagery having an interior surface-perimeter and an exterior surface-perimeter, wherein each of said surface-perimeters is shaped and sized to be substantially contiguous and seamless in appearance and to have a display area of a panoramic type, over a wide-angle field extending up to a full 360° of azimuth, on which, substantially contiguous panoramic visual-media content and segmented visual-media content can be imaged (column 7, lines 12-26), said system being composed of a variety of panoramic imaging apparatus consisting of a ring of projectors (column 10, lines 15-33; claims 9,10) and including at least one image processor (claim 15), wherein said image processor comprises at least one CPU, at least one operating system, at least one input-controller, and at least one panoramic game software application comprising software routines to seamlessly edge-match an array of video segments, including game backgrounds, environments, moving objects and other scene elements, when moving from, transitioning from, or overlapping between, one panoramic portion of the screen to another panoramic portion of said screen (claim 18), and at least one operating networking software application responsive to user input from a plurality of workstations and providing

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Box V (page 1)

computer-networked interactivity between one or more individuals at the same facility or between one or more individuals located at a plurality of similarly configured facilities (fig 11; column 18, lines 13-42; claim 20).

D2 discloses an interactive theatre for providing virtual reality experience, comprising an audience platform, a ceiling structure, a projection screen, preferably cylindrical or spherical, surrounding said audience platform and said ceiling, a projection system including a single projector or a plurality of projectors, a sound system, and a control system for controlling said projection system and said sound system (column 1, lines 35-42), said control system being integrated with one or more computers which create real-time computer-generated or digital-video images to be projected onto said projection surface (column 6, lines 33-36), thus generating a single, continuously viewable image from several separately projected individual overlapping video images blended vertically and horizontally using a conventional soft-edged blending technique (column 4, lines 26-32), said control system including sensors for sensing the action of an audience, such as the motion of individual members of the audience or groups of individuals within the audience, or sound produced by an individual or group of individuals within the audience, in order to dynamically vary the projected image in response to the data derived from said sensors to thereby enable the audience to influence the display of subsequent images (figs 5a,5b; column 6, lines 36-45).

The problem to be solved by the technical features recited in amended claim 1 may be regarded as how to provide an interactive multimedia presentation generated by an actual information system running on a single computer and to increase the display area by providing seamless screens for viewing ultra-high-resolution images.

Whereas a computer for generating images in real time, wherein a sequence of images to be projected is selected and transmitted to a signal processor, which routes the selected images to an appropriate projector for projection onto a projection surface, is disclosed in D2 (fig. 5a; column 7, lines 1-13), none of the cited prior art documents anticipates or renders obvious the concept of using the extended desktop feature supported by contemporary operating systems, such as Microsoft Corporation's Windows® XP operating system, said extended desktop feature supporting multiple monitors in a way that allows the multiple monitor's screens to be used as one larger screen, wherein a single computer is provided with a number of graphics cards each equipped with two monitor ports, and each graphics card is connected to two of a plurality of projectors via said respective monitor ports, the operating system thus extending the desktop of said single computer to said plurality of projectors to act as a single virtual desktop, and the display images of said plurality of projectors corresponding to the separate virtual desktops of a multi-monitor configuration supported by said extended desktop feature.

This concept provides a completely hardware oriented solution, where no special software for edge blending has to be installed in order to produce a seamless panoramic image while providing ultra-high-resolution images.

Consequently, the subject-matter of amended claim 1 produces a sufficient differentiation to justify novelty respectively inventive step over the cited prior art. Industrial applicability is given, too.

Dependent claims 2-11 show preferred realisations of independent claim 1, by virtue of dependency. Consequently, the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability of amended claims 1-11 are complied with.

Conforming to the formal requirements specified according to PCT Rule 6.3 (a), the definition in the claims of the matter for which protection is sought shall be in terms of the technical features of the invention.

However, some of the features used in the claims of the application do not meet this demand in a satisfactory manner for a distinguishing feature of the invention, in particular the features "simple to operate", "simple to install", "the shape and area of the display are easily customizable", "any kind of visual contents" (claim 1), "regular, available and easy-to use technologies" (claim 5) do not meet the formal requirements specified according to PCT Rule 6.3 (a).

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Box V (page 2)

In addition, with regard to the prior art, the applicant can also refer to the publication US 2003/0223113 A1, relating to a curved-screen rear projection display comprising a computer workstation, a curved translucent display screen, and a plurality of electronic projectors positioned behind said display screen and in communication with said computer to project respective computer display images adjacent each other onto said display screen.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: 1.5

New independent claim 12 and accordingly the dependent new claims 13-25 do not meet the requirements specified according to PCT Article 41(2), as the feature "portable system" is not supported by the application as originally filed.

New claim 23 does not meet the requirements specified according to PCT Article 41(2), as the feature "multiple pop up flat screen" is not supported by the application as originally filed.

Consequently, new claims 12-25 have not been taken in consideration in establishing this international preliminary examination report.